



# County of San Diego

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS DIVISION

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## SMALL QUANTITY GENERATORS Partial List of Regulatory Requirements\*

A generator who produces less than 1000 kilograms of hazardous waste in a calendar month and less than 1 kilogram of acutely hazardous waste in a calendar month may accumulate hazardous waste onsite for 180 or 270 days (depending on waste disposal facility location), without a State DTSC storage permit or without having interim status provided that:

- 1) The quantity of waste accumulated onsite never exceeds 6000 kilograms;
- 2) The generator complies with the container and tank standards as appropriate;
- 3) The generator labels the container or tank as hazardous waste per 22 CCR 66262.34(f); and
- 4) The generator complies with the following requirements:
  - a) At all times there must be at least one employee either on the premises or on call (*i.e.*, available to respond to an emergency by reaching the facility within a short period of time) with the responsibility for coordinating all emergency response measures. This employee is the emergency coordinator.
  - b) The generator must post the following information next to the telephone:
    - i) The name and telephone number of the emergency coordinator;
    - ii) Location of fire extinguishers and spill control material, and, if present, fire alarm; and
    - iii) The telephone number of the fire department, unless the facility has a direct alarm.
  - c) The generator must ensure that all employees are thoroughly familiar with proper waste handling and emergency procedures, relevant to their responsibilities during normal facility operations and emergencies;
  - d) The emergency coordinator or his designee must respond to any emergencies that arise. The applicable responses are as follows:
    - i) In the event of a fire, call the fire department or attempt to extinguish it using a fire extinguisher;
    - ii) In the event of a spill, contain the flow of hazardous waste to the extent possible, and as soon as is practicable, clean up the hazardous waste and any contaminated materials or soil;
    - iii) In the event of a fire, explosion, or other release which could threaten human health outside the facility or when the generator has knowledge that a spill has reached surface water, the generator must immediately notify the California Office of Emergency Services (using their 24-hour toll free number (800) 852-7550) and the San Diego County Hazardous Materials Division at (619) 338-2222. The report must include the following information:
      - (1) The name, address, and U.S. EPA Identification Number of the generator;
      - (2) Date, time, and type of incident (*e.g.*, spill or fire);
      - (3) Quantity and type of hazardous waste involved in the incident;
      - (4) Extent of injuries, if any; and
      - (5) Estimated quantity and disposition of recovered materials, if any.

## **SMALL QUANTITY GENERATORS**

### **Hazardous Waste Container Management Standards**

#### **40 CFR 265.171      Condition of containers**

When a container holding hazardous waste is not in good condition, or if it begins to leak, the owner or operator must transfer the hazardous waste from this container to another one that is in good condition, or manage the waste in some other way that complies with the requirements of this part.

#### **40 CFR 265.172      Compatibility of waste with container**

The owner or operator must use a container made of or lined with materials, which will not react with, and are otherwise compatible with, the hazardous waste to be stored, so that the ability of the container to contain the waste is not impaired.

#### **40 CFR 265.173      Management of containers**

(a) A container holding hazardous waste must always be closed during storage, except when it is necessary to add or remove waste.

(b) A container holding hazardous waste must not be opened, handled, or stored in a manner which may rupture the container or cause it to leak.

#### **40 CFR 265.174      Inspections**

The owner or operator must inspect areas where containers are stored, at least weekly, looking for leaks and for deterioration caused by corrosion or other factors.

#### **40 CFR 265.177      Special requirements for incompatible wastes**

(a) Incompatible wastes, or incompatible wastes and materials, (see appendix V for examples) must not be placed in the same container, unless §265.17(b)<sup>1</sup> is complied with.

(b) Hazardous waste must not be placed in an unwashed container that previously held an incompatible waste or material (see appendix V for examples), unless §265.17(b) is complied with.

(c) A storage container holding a hazardous waste that is incompatible with any waste or other materials stored nearby in other containers, piles, open tanks, or surface impoundments must be separated from the other materials or protected from them by means of a dike, berm, wall, or other device.

[**Comment:** The purpose of this is to prevent fires, explosions, gaseous emissions, leaching, or other discharge of hazardous waste or hazardous waste constituents which could result from the mixing of incompatible wastes or materials if containers break or leak.]

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<sup>1</sup>40 CFR 265.17 General requirements for ignitable, reactive, or incompatible wastes.

(b) Where specifically required by other sections of this part, the treatment, storage, or disposal of ignitable or reactive waste, and the mixture or commingling of incompatible wastes, or incompatible wastes and materials, must be conducted so that it does not:

- (1) Generate extreme heat or pressure, fire or explosion, or violent reaction;
- (2) Produce uncontrolled toxic mists, fumes, dusts, or gases in sufficient quantities to threaten human health;
- (3) Produce uncontrolled flammable fumes or gases in sufficient quantities to pose a risk of fire or explosions;
- (4) Damage the structural integrity of the device or facility containing the waste; or
- (5) Through other like means threaten human health or the environment.

## **SMALL QUANTITY GENERATORS**

### **Hazardous Waste Tank Management Standards**

#### **40 CFR 265.201 Requirements for small quantity generators that accumulate hazardous waste in tanks.**

(a) The requirements of this section apply to small quantity generators of less than 1,000 kg of hazardous waste in a calendar month, that accumulate hazardous waste in tanks for less than 180 days (or 270 days if the generator must ship the waste greater than 200 miles), and do not accumulate over 6,000 kg on-site at any time.

(b) Generators must comply with the following general operating requirements:

- (1) Treatment or storage of hazardous waste in tanks must comply with §265.17(b).
- (2) Hazardous wastes or treatment reagents must not be placed in a tank if they could cause the tank or its inner liner to rupture, leak, corrode, or otherwise fail before the end of its intended life.
- (3) Uncovered tanks must be operated to ensure at least 2 feet of freeboard, unless the tank is equipped with a containment structure (e.g., dike or trench), a drainage control system, or a diversion structure (e.g., standby tank) with a capacity that equals or exceeds the volume of the top 2 feet of the tank.
- (4) Where hazardous waste is continuously fed into a tank, the tank must be equipped with a means to stop this inflow (e.g., waste feed cutoff system or by-pass system to a stand-by tank).

**NOTE:** These systems are intended to be used in the event of a leak or overflow from the tank due to a system failure (e.g., a malfunction in the treatment process, a crack in the tank, etc.).

(c) Generators must inspect, where present:

- (1) Discharge control equipment (e.g., waste feed cutoff systems, by-pass systems, and drainage systems) at least once each operating day, to ensure that it is in good working order;
- (2) Data gathered from monitoring equipment (e.g., pressure and temperature gauges) at least once each operating day to ensure that the tank is being operated according to its design;
- (3) The level of waste in the tank at least once each operating day to ensure compliance with §265.201(b)(3);
- (4) The construction materials of the tank at least weekly to detect corrosion or leaking of fixtures or seams; and
- (5) The construction materials of, and the area immediately surrounding, discharge confinement structures (e.g., dikes) at least weekly to detect erosion or obvious signs of leakage (e.g., wet spots or dead vegetation).

**NOTE:** As required by §265.15(c), the owner or operator must remedy any deterioration or malfunction he finds.

(d) Generators must, upon closure of the facility, remove all hazardous waste from tanks, discharge control equipment, and discharge confinement structures.

**NOTE:** At closure, as throughout the operating period, unless the owner or operator can demonstrate, in accordance with §261.3(c) or 261.3 of this chapter, that any solid waste removed from his tank is not a hazardous waste, the owner or operator becomes a generator of hazardous waste and must manage it in accordance with all applicable requirements of Parts 262, 263, and 265 of this chapter.

(e) Generators must comply with the following special requirements for ignitable or reactive waste:

- (1) Ignitable or reactive waste must not be placed in a tank, unless:
  - (i) The waste is treated, rendered, or mixed before or immediately after placement in a tank so that (A) the resulting waste, mixture, or dissolution of material no longer meets the definition of ignitable or reactive waste under §261.21 or §261.23 of this chapter, and (B) §265.17(b) is complied with; or
  - (ii) The waste is stored or treated in such a way that it is protected from any material or conditions that may cause the waste to ignite or react; or
  - (iii) The tank is used solely for emergencies.
- (2) The owner or operator of a facility which treats or stores ignitable or reactive waste in covered tanks must comply with the buffer zone requirements for tanks contained in Tables 2-1 through 2-6 of the National Fire Protection Association's "Flammable and Combustible Liquids Code," (1977 or 1981) (incorporated by reference, see §260.11).

(f) Generators must comply with the following special requirements for incompatible wastes:

- (1) Incompatible wastes, or incompatible wastes and materials, (see Appendix V for examples) must not be placed in the same tank, unless §265.17(b) is complied with.
- (2) Hazardous waste must not be placed in an unwashed tank which previously held an incompatible waste or material, unless §265.17(b) is complied with.

## **SMALL QUANTITY GENERATOR**

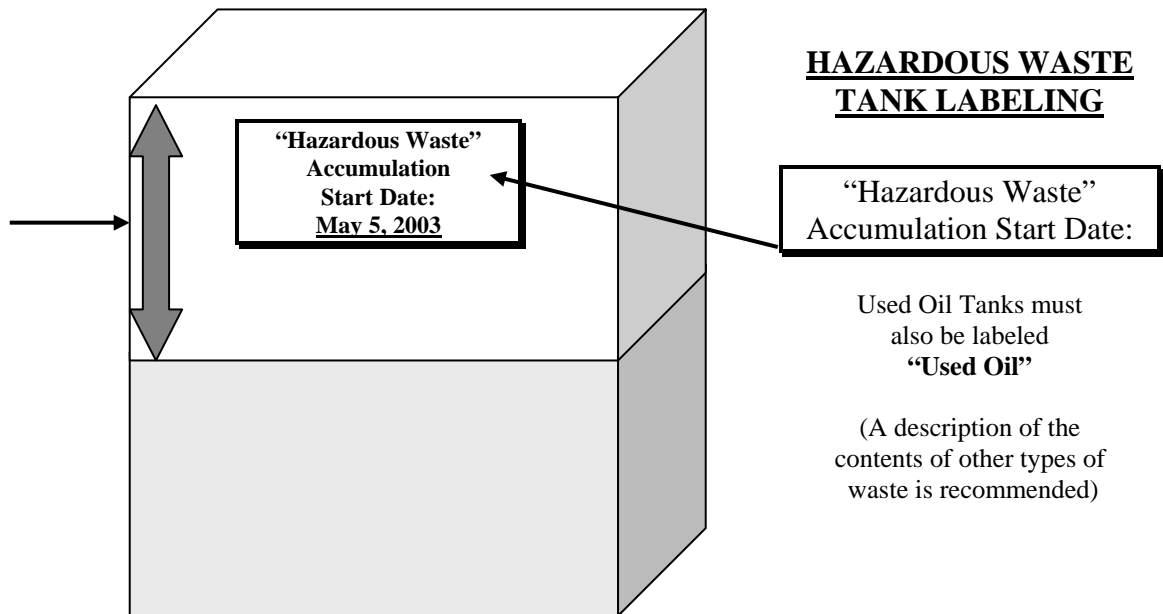
### **Hazardous Waste Tank Requirements**

#### **FREEBOARD REQUIREMENT FOR OPEN TANKS**

Open tanks must have a minimum of two feet between the surface of the liquid and the top of the tank.

or

Secondary containment that would retain an amount of liquid equal to two feet of freeboard is required.



### **GENERATOR INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS**

(Where present)

#### **Every Operating Day Inspect:**

- (1) Discharge control equipment (valves, control systems, etc.) to ensure that it is in good working order.
- (2) Monitoring equipment (e.g., pressure and temperature gauges) to ensure that the tank is being operated according to its design.
- (3) The level of waste in the tank at least once to ensure two feet of freeboard.

#### **Every Week Inspect:**

- (1) The construction materials of the tank to detect corrosion or leaking of fixtures or seams; and The construction materials of, and the area immediately surrounding, discharge confinement structures (e.g., dikes) to detect erosion or obvious signs of leakage (e.g., wet spots or dead vegetation).